Information Technology in April, 2001, New Zealand did show interest in the India Information Technology Act and they are thinking of bringing out a legislation on the lines of this IT Act.

New Zealand has also shown interest in entering into an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Ministry of Information Technology.

Licencing for IT Related Services

2659. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to bring Internet e-connection and all I.T. related services under a licence regime; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor particularly when Government have discouraged and discontinued licence regime in other important sectors?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Licences are already being given on a non-exclusive basis for Internet Service Provider (ISPs) based on a very liberal policy. The licence fee has been in fact waived upto 31.10.2003, and even thereafter will be a token amount of only Rs. 1/- per annum. ISP licences are given to Indian companies with no requirement of applicant company having any prior experience in Information Technology or Telecom services.

As far as IT enabled services are concerned, the New Telecom Policy 1999 provides only for the registration of services under the category of "Other Service Providers' as follows: "For applications like tele-banking, tele-medicine, tele-education, tele-trading, e-commerce, other service providers will be allowed to operate by using infrastructure provided by various access providers. No license fee will be charged but registration for specific services being offered will be required. These service providers will not infringe on the jurisdiction of other access providers and they will not provide switched telephony".

There is no proposal to change the above position.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Export by Information Technology Industry

†2660. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that export is being made from the country by the Information Technology Industry;

(b) if so, the names of the three States with maximum exports during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-01; and

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.